United Nations ST/IC/2008/32

Secretariat

23 June 2008

Information circular*

To: Members of the staff

From: The Under-Secretary-General for Management

Subject: **Internal Justice Council**

1. The purpose of the present circular is to inform staff of the terms of reference and membership of the Internal Justice Council.

Terms of reference of the Internal Justice Council

2. In paragraph 36 of resolution 62/228 of 22 December 2007, the General Assembly decided to establish the Internal Justice Council as part of a new internal justice system in order to help ensure independence, professionalism and accountability in the new internal justice system of the United Nations. The new system, which is to be established as of 1 January 2009, will comprise a two-tier judicial structure, consisting of a first instance United Nations Dispute Tribunal and an appellate instance United Nations Appeals Tribunal. Pursuant to paragraph 37 of resolution 62/228, the tasks of the Internal Justice Council are to:

(a) Liaise with the Office of Human Resources Management on issues related to the search for suitable candidates for the positions of judges, including by conducting interviews as necessary;

(b) Provide its views and recommendations to the General Assembly on two or three candidates for each vacancy in the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, with due regard to geographical distribution;

(c) Draft a code of conduct for the judges, for consideration by the General Assembly;

(d) Provide its views on the implementation of the system of administration of justice to the General Assembly.

* The present circular will be in effect until further notice.

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Composition of the Internal Justice Council

3. In paragraph 36 of resolution 62/228, the General Assembly decided that the Internal Justice Council would consist of a staff representative, a management representative and two distinguished external jurists, one nominated by the staff and one by management. The General Assembly also decided that the fifth member would be a distinguished jurist chosen by consensus by the four other members and would chair the Internal Justice Council.

4. In March 2008, the Secretary-General appointed the representatives and the distinguished external jurists who had each been nominated by the staff and management, respectively. In May 2008, the four members chose the Chairperson by consensus, who was thereupon appointed by the Secretary-General. The members have been appointed for a period of four years. The members of the Internal Justice Council are:

Catherine O'Regan (South Africa) (Chairperson)
Sinha Basnayake (Sri Lanka)
Jenny Clift (Australia)
Geoffrey Robertson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Maria Vicien-Milburn (Argentina)